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NEWS AND COMMENTS

A new magazine! Such an exclamation will be natural enough to readers already surfeited with periodicals. It is therefore eminently fitting that in the first issue of this REVIEW there should be set forth the reasons that seem to justify a new burden for that part of the public which attempts to practice discrimination in its reading. We can assure our readers that the venture has not been entered upon thoughtlessly or in the spirit of bravado, for the subject has been under consideration by the Mississippi Valley Historical Association for two years and by members of the fraternity of western historians for a still longer time.

The first step taken by the Association was to send a circular letter to some fifty American historians asking for their opinion on the subject of publishing a review. The answers were in the great majority of cases very encouraging, and from them there might be drawn that justification of which it is a question. Dr. Justin H. Smith of Boston voiced a sentiment that is all sufficing, when he wrote: "I beg to express the opinion that the Mississippi Valley is great enough to have a historical quarterly. This, in my mind, hardly admits of question." If it were the question only of the size and the importance of the great middle valley, Mr. Smith's opinion would surely find general consent; but, when there is added to these a unity of development, differing in many ways from that of either the East or the far West, the reason appears to be overwhelming. The publication of a magazine devoted to sectional history is by no means a new development. Here in the United States there are a few successful state historical journals, and the experience of the German and the French scholars points to the practicability of finding support for numerous publications of this kind. In fact, if we could base a prophecy on the development of historical study in Europe, we should look hopefully to a time when many historical periodicals of a high class will be published here.

Another reason offered in one of the answers to our circular seems equally potent. "I am in sympathy with your project," writes Professor H. L. Osgood of Columbia University, "because I do not think that the *American Historical Review* furnishes a sufficient outlet for the volume of historical work which is in progress in this country. We need more avenues of publication." The development of interest in American history has been very rapid during the last thirty years; and particularly

is this true in the West, where there has grown up a very active school whose members are reaching out into all the fields of research offered in the past of the region. Indian life, exploration, colonization, and the amalgamation of the various nationalities, are all being made the subjects of investigation; and new interpretations of the past history of the country are being formulated. The demand for "more avenues of publication" is very strong among these investigators, and this REVIEW is the result of that demand. Back of it are practically all the historians of the West and they are determined to make it a success.

What we propose to do is very evident from this number. The MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW will be devoted to the promotion of research in the history of the valley, the limits of which will be considered as extending from the Appalachian to the Rocky mountains; and attention will be given to the surrounding regions in so far as they have been historically connected in the westward movement. The meaning of the West will be therefore liberally interpreted. The department of reviews will not be closely limited, for the readers of the magazine have the right to be informed of the progress of historical literature, although local histories of the East will not be given extended notices.

We have already asked and ask again for the most cordial support from the local societies, state departments of history, and history departments of the universities and colleges of the middle West. This Review belongs to them, and it is believed by the editors that mutual good will result from the closest coöperation. The Mississippi Valley has been arbitrarily divided into the Old Northwest, the Old Southwest, the Trans-Mississippi Northwest, and the Trans-Mississippi Southwest; and in each number of the REVIEW, there will appear a survey of the historical activities in one of these divisions. Our readers will thus obtain a view of the research that is being conducted in every part of the valley; and notable developments in methods will be particularly emphasized. As an illustration of the value of these surveys, we wish to call attention to Mr. Buck's explanation of the work that has been planned in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan, as printed in the current number.

Although we have thus set forth the reasons for the existence of this REVIEW, we are not to be counted among those who accuse themselves by making excuses, for we have no excuses to offer. We have made our bow to the public, and here is our performance.

REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, who died on October 22, 1913, left the widest gap among the workers in western history that has been made in many years. He was born in 1853, in Massachusetts, and, after several years of news-

paper work and self education, became secretary and superintendent of the Wisconsin society in 1886. The society was well established when he took charge of it, and under his direction the development started by Draper was continued without a break. He not only founded it firmly in the affections of the people of the state, but affiliated it with the historical activities of the University of Wisconsin, and gave to it standing and prestige among historical societies, wherever found. His official publications are today the model for many societies. His personal activities ran far beyond those of his office. As editor of the *Jesuit Relations* and of the *Early Western Travels* he placed himself at the head of the scholars in western American history. His historical writings won for themselves a high place. He attached to himself by the ties of association and friendship the whole historical profession, and gave inspiration and encouragement to countless students of the present generation. His years of service were fittingly commemorated at a special meeting of the Wisconsin society on December 19, 1913, upon which occasion his long-time associate, Frederic Jackson Turner, delivered a memorial address. This address, accompanied by a complete bibliography of the writings of Dr. Thwaites, will shortly be issued and distributed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Dr. Thwaites was elected last May a member of the board of editors of this REVIEW, and the loss of his counsel and encouragement will always be keenly felt by those in whose hands the editorial work is placed.

On March 19, there died at Madrid, Spain, Alphonse Bandelier, one of the most distinguished of American anthropologists. He was born in Berne, August 6, 1840, and came to America in his youth, where he soon became interested in the study of Indian life. In the pursuit of his life work, he lived for long periods among the Indians without seeing a white man; he was also an indefatigable investigator of archives, particularly those of colonial Spain, in both North and South America. In 1904 he was appointed a lecturer at Columbia University. His list of published works is such a long and noted one, that all students of America must indorse the encomium written by Mr. Bingham in the *New York Nation* (March 26, 1914): "It is doubtful whether his intimate personal knowledge of the races of both North and South America . . . can ever be equalled. It certainly has never been surpassed by his predecessors or contemporaries."

On March 13, there was formed, at St. Louis, the Cahokia Mound Association, the purpose of which is to promote the preservation of the great group of mounds near East St. Louis. The plan proposed is to have at least seventy acres made into a federal park; and the association will use all its influence to promote the passage of the necessary legisla-

tion by Congress. Dr. H. M. Whelpley of St. Louis is president, and Dr. R. J. Terry of Washington University, St. Louis, is secretary-treasurer. All those interested in the movement are requested to send their names to the latter.

On March 2, 1913, Congress passed an act authorizing the departments of war and of the navy to collect, for purposes of future publication, the scattered records of the Revolutionary War. The work is being performed by Captain Hollis C. Clark, U. S. A. retired, and Mr. Charles W. Stewart, superintendent of the navy department library. An advisory commission to assist the departments has been appointed by the president of the American Historical Association. The personnel of this is Major John Bigelow, U. S. A. retired, Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick, U. S. N. retired, Dr. Justin H. Smith, Dr. Frederic Bancroft, and Dr. J. Franklin Jameson.

The Virginia State Library has issued a *List of Manuscripts Recently Deposited in the Virginia State Library by the State Auditor*, prepared by Earl G. Swem. The manuscripts are mostly from the period of the Revolutionary War and later. Mr. Swem has prepared for this REVIEW a detailed list of those of particular interest to students of western history (see *ante*, 95).

The Library of Congress has issued a pamphlet entitled *Notes on the Care, Cataloguing, Calendaring, and Arranging of Manuscripts* by J. C. Fitzpatrick, chief assistant, division of manuscripts (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913. 45 p.), which is replete with valuable suggestions for archivists and custodians of manuscripts.

A History of England from the Defeat of the Armada to the Death of Elizabeth, vol. 1, by Professor E. P. Cheyney, contains an important chapter on the attempts of Englishmen like Frobisher, Raleigh, and others to explore the Arctic and to colonize the North Atlantic coast in the period 1576-1587. The work is published by Longmans and will be completed in two volumes.

The Yale University Press has issued *The Colonising Activities of the English Puritans* by Arthur P. Newton, with an introduction by Charles M. Andrews. The principal subject of the volume is the history of the colony of Providence in the Carribean until its capture by the Spaniards in 1641; but the author has also kept in view all the colonizing activities of the Puritans of the period and also the influence of the Providence Company in the contest with Charles I.

Two volumes have been recently added to the *Original Narrative of Early American History* (Scribner's Sons). *The Narrative of the In-*

dian Wars, 1675-1699, edited by Charles H. Lincoln, is composed of reprints of rare contemporary works on the Indian wars of New England. The second volume is substantially a reproduction of Mr. Henry C. Murphy's translation of the "Journal of Jasper Dankaerts," as published by the Long Island Historical Society in 1867. The present edition is edited by Bartlett B. James and J. Franklin Jameson. Dankaerts was one of two members of the Labadist sect sent in 1679 to find a suitable place for the establishment of a community. The settlement was later made in Maryland.

The Musson Book Company of Toronto publishes a little brochure entitled *Scouts of Empire, the Story of the Discovery of the Great North-West* by Laurence J. Burpee. In this excellent example of the printer's art are contained six little essays, in popular form, upon various phases of western discovery from the time of Henry Hudson to the exploratory expedition of David Thompson. The volume is much superior to the usual popular account of similar purpose and scope, as it is the product of the pen of a master in the subject who knows how to write in a delightful vein.

The firm of Bell and Cockburn of Toronto has issued in beautiful form a new edition of Mrs. Susanna Moodie's *Roughing it in the Bush, Or Forest Life in Canada*. The original edition was dedicated to her sister, Agnes Strickland, author of the *Lives of the Queens of England*. Mr. and Mrs. Moodie came to Canada in 1832 and spent several years on the frontier. The volume contains a most realistic and vivid picture of pioneer life, written in a most interesting style.

The flood of Lincolniana continues unabated. Among recent publications of this class may be noted: *Lincoln, the Man of the People* by William H. Mace in Rand, McNally, and Company's *Little Lives of Great Men* (Chicago, 1912. xi, 191 p.); *Lincoln and Slavery* by Albert E. Pillsbury (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913. 97 p.), an extension of an address delivered at Howard University on the fiftieth anniversary of the emancipation proclamation; *Abraham Lincoln, the Christian* by William J. Johnson (New York: Eaton and Mains, 1913. 228 p.); *Headlights of American History, no. 2—Lincoln* by Rev. A. M. Bullock (Appleton, Wisconsin, 1913. 156 p.); *The Democracy of Abraham Lincoln* by Henry Cabot Lodge, an address before the students of Boston University School of Law, March 14, 1913 (63 Congress, 1 Session, Senate documents 18. Washington, 1913. 18 p.); and *Abraham Lincoln's Visit to Evanston in 1860* by J. Seymour Currey (Evanston, Illinois: City National Bank, 1914. 16 p.). Laird and Lee have issued a new edition of Robert D. Sheppard's *The Life of Abraham Lin-*

coln in their *Historic Americans* series (Chicago, 1913. 179 p.) and there has appeared also a new and thoroughly revised edition of Francis Fisher Browne's *Every-Day Life of Lincoln* (Chicago: Browne and Howell, 1913. xiii, 622 p.), which contains a hitherto unpublished portrait of Lincoln from a charcoal study by J. N. Marble.

Two recent histories of Civil War regiments have come to hand: *The Nineteenth Illinois* edited by J. Henry Haynie (Chicago, 1912. 396 p.) and *History of the Eighty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry — The Greyhound Regiment* by T. B. Marshall (Cincinnati, 1912. 227 p.). The writer of the last made use of diaries kept by four members of the regiment.

"An Outline of the Development of Internal Commerce of the United States, 1789-1900" is the title of a doctoral thesis by T. W. Van Metre to the University of Pennsylvania, published in pamphlet form at Baltimore by the author. It is, the author states, a brief abstract of a work to be published later.

In *Early Days on the Western Slope of Colorado and Campfire Chats with Otto Mears the Pathfinder from 1870 to 1883 inclusive* (Denver: The Carson-Harper Company, 1913. 384 p.), Mr. Sidney Jocknick tells how he went to Colorado when the Kansas Pacific had penetrated only to Kit Carson, on the eastern slope of the state, and took up life in the Ute country. His recollections are fragmentary and generally unimportant, but they contain many names of early pioneers of the San Juan and Gunnison region and will have some value for the local historian of the state.

Good books for boys are always acceptable and two stories of western adventure, which have just appeared, can be recommended. George B. Grinnell's *Beyond the Frontier* (Scribner's Sons) is a collection of tales of fur trading, hunting, and exploration, based on well known narratives, and told in a manner that will interest the young mind. Edwin L. Sabin's *On the Plains with Custer* (Lippincott) is a story of Custer's western career woven around the tale of a young boy's adventures on the plains of Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

Announcement has just been made that the manuscript journal of Sergeant John Ordway's Journal of the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific has just been discovered among the Biddle papers and deposited in the archives of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. This note book was used by Nicholas Biddle in preparing his edition of the journals of Lewis and Clark, but it was later completely lost and could not be found by Dr. Thwaites when he prepared his edition of these journals.

At the April meeting of the board of regents of the University of Texas, Major George W. Littlefield, C. S. A., one of the regents, established a fund of twenty-five thousand dollars for the collection of material for "the full and impartial study of the South and of its part in American history." The fund is in vendor's lien land notes, and for the next seven years yields six per cent interest. After twenty-five years the principal may be used, if necessary.